
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov

WD-WEB-2

2003

Wastewater Treatment Certification

Wastewater treatment plant operators operate mechanical equipment in wastewater treatment facilities in order to remove harmful waste products from water and to render it environmentally acceptable. They maintain pumps, pipes, valves, and processing equipment to move wastewater through collection systems and through various treatment processes. They read and interpret meters and gauges. They also operate chemical-feeding devices, perform laboratory analyses, and keep records of their work. They must be "Jacks of all trades" and be familiar with electricity, mechanics, chemistry, microbiology, hydraulics, and a host of other disciplines.

The DES Water Division requires wastewater treatment operators to be certified by the State in order to assure that the operators are suitably qualified and have sufficient knowledge and ability to properly operate and maintain such facilities. This helps to assure optimum treatment of all wastewaters in public facilities prior to discharge to surface or ground waters of the state.

One may obtain certification in New Hampshire through a certification examination or by reciprocity with another state.

1. **Certification Examinations** are usually held in June and December of each year at the DES Operator Training Center in Franklin. A \$50 fee is charged. Applications to take the certification examination are obtained from this office (see address above) and must be submitted no later than two months prior to the date of the examination. The Certification Committee reviews the application and required supporting documents, determines the applicant's eligibility, and notifies him or her of their status in writing. Qualifications for eligibility for each of the certification grades are as follows:

Grade	Experience	Education	Comments
1-OIT	0	12 years	Grade 1 after 1 year full time experience
1	1 year	12 years	HS diploma or GED for education
2-OIT	1 year	12 years	HS diploma or GED for education
	Or 0 years	13 years	HS or GED plus 1 year wastewater certificate
2	3 years	12 years	HS diploma or GED for education
3-OIT	2 years	14 years	HS or GED plus 90 CEU's or 2 years college
3	4 years	14 years	HS or GED plus 90 CEU's or 2 years college
4-OIT	4 years	14 years	HS or GED plus 90 CEU's or 2 years college
4	6 years	14 years	HS or GED plus 90 CEU's or 2 years college

2. Applicants who achieve a score of 70 percent correct or higher on the OIT exams must complete the full experience requirement prior to receiving a full Grade certificate. Applicants who take a Grade 1 through 4 examination and achieve a score of 70 percent correct or higher will receive the corresponding grade of certificate. Applicants achieving a score of 70 percent correct or higher on the written exam for Grades 2, 3 and 4 may be required to attend an interview with the Certification Committee as a second step of the certification process.
3. Once the certification process has been successfully completed and a certificate issued, it must be renewed every two years. For Grades 2 and above, two Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are required per renewal period. CEUs are issued such that ten hours of education is equal to 1.0 CEU, or one college credit is equal to 1.5 CEUs. The fee for a two-year certificate renewal is \$50.
4. **Reciprocity with the State of New Hampshire** is handled on a case-by-case basis by the Certification Committee. Grade 1 through 3 certificates may be issued, without examination, in a comparable classification to other states, provided the individual holds a valid certificate issued by an appropriate agency and he or she is actively seeking employment in New Hampshire. Additionally, that certification must have been issued by examination in the other state. Grade 4 certificates are not available by reciprocity.

The N.H. Department of Environmental Services offers Training Courses in the spring and fall of each year at the DES Operator Training Center in Franklin. Classes are usually five hours long and held during the day, with an hour lunch break. A wide variety of wastewater related subjects are addressed each session, and CEUs are earned for each class. Course schedules and registration materials are available from this office approximately four weeks in advance of the first class. Registration is on a first come, first served basis, and a nominal fee is charged to cover building and administrative expenses.

For more information, contact the DES Water Division, Wastewater Engineering Bureau, at (603) 271-3503.